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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 066570
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, SREF, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI CHRISTIANS

REF: (A) STATE 48749; (B) BAGHDAD 333

1. CHIEF IRAQINT DELIVERED FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC NOTE DURING DISCUSSIONS OF OTHER SUBJECTS (SEPTEL) MARCH 9: QUOTE:

THE EMBASSY OF INDIA, IRAQI INTERESTS SECTION, PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR OF RE-RELAYING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ OVER THE QUESTION OF THE IRAQI NATIONALS WHO HAVE RECENTLY SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE IRAQI INTERESTS SECTION WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR FURNISHING IT WITH A LIST OF THE NAMES OF ALL IRAQI NATIONALS WHO HAVE RECENTLY ARRIVED
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IN THE UNITED STATES SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM. THE LAST GROUP OF THESE CITIZENS WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ARRIVED AT J.F.K. AIRPORT ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1978. THE SECTION WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE STATUS OF THESE IRAQI CITIZENS AT PRESENT. END QUOTE.

2. WHILE THESE PEOPLE'S CLAIMS FOR ASYLUM ARE PENDING

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AND HENCE THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS IS UNDETERMINED, WE CANNOT JEOPARDIZE THEIR FUTURE RIGHTS BY FURNISHING THE GOI WITH A LIST OF NAMES. WE WILL RESPOND TO THE REQUEST FOR A STATUS REPORT, ONCE WE HAVE COLLECTED THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TWO HUNDRED IRAQI CHRISTIANS WHO CAME TROV, ALONG THE LINES OF REF A. VANCE

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